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83417 7590 04/27/2010

AT&T Legal Department - HFZ
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Room 2A-207
Bedminstor, NJ 07921

EXAMINER

LIN, KENNY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2452

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,987	07/23/2001	Yihsiu Chen	2000-0183	3520

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATED CONNECTION TO VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS RELATED APPLICATIONS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	07/27/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATED CONNECTION TO VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS RELATED APPLICATIONS

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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 07/27/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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LIN, KENNY S 2452 709-217000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev. 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1 _____

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1178 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1178 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/910,987

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Kenny S. Lin

Art Unit

2452

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/21/2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-16 and 21-24 now renumbered as 1-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/21/2010
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4, 6-16 and 21-24 are presented for examination.
2. The IDS submitted on 1/21/2010 is considered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Glitto, Reg. No. 58,996, on April 23, 2010.

4. The application has been amended as follows:
 1. (Currently amended) A network interface unit for communicating data packets over one or more non-secure networks between one or more client devices associated with one or more local area networks (LAN) and a secure virtual private network (VPN) node, comprising:
 - means for authenticating the one or more client devices for access to the secure VPN node,
 - a graphical user interface server for presenting an authentication menu to the one or more client devices, wherein, when a first one of the client devices is incompatible with the authentication menu, the authentication means is to authenticate the first client device in

response to an authentication of a second one of the client devices via the authentication menu, the second client device being compatible with the authentication menu;

means for receiving a menu selection from the second client device [[menu]], the selection corresponding to a connection profile associated with a first type of connection;

means for accessing the one or more non-secure networks using information associated with the selection; and

a security server for establishing a secure communication over the non-secure network between the LAN and the secure VPN node.

2. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 1, further comprising a configuration server having a memory for storing configuration information for at the client devices, and means for retrieving the configuration information from the memory in response to an authentication of one of the client devices.

3. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 2, wherein the configuration information comprises information received in association with each of the client devices upon an initial authentication of respective ones of the client devices.

4. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 1, wherein the second client device is designated for authentication on behalf of the first client device and other incompatible client devices associated with the LAN.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 2, wherein the configuration information corresponding to the client devices comprises information related to connections to the one or more non-secure networks.

7. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 6, wherein the information

related to the connections to the one or more non-secure networks comprises information relating to a dial-up connection.

8. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 7, wherein the information related to the dial-up connection comprises information relating to a customized dial-up connection, the information relating to the customized dial-up connection comprising a customized string of characters to control a modem connection to the one or more non-secure network networks.

9. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 6, wherein the information related to the connections to the one or more non-secure networks comprises information relating to a connection having a fixed IP address.

10. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 6, wherein the information related to the connections to the one or more non-secure networks comprises information relating to one a connection having a temporary IP address.

11. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 10, further comprising a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server for providing the temporary IP address.

12. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 6, further comprising a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) client for obtaining a temporary IP address from the at least one non-secure network and providing the temporary IP address for use in a connection.

13. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 6, wherein the information related to the connections to the one or more non-secure networks comprises information relating to a point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) connection.

14. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 2, wherein the memory comprises a removable memory module.

15. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 14, wherein the removable memory module stores web pages for presentation by the graphical user interface server.

16. (Previously Presented) The network interface unit of claim 1, wherein the means for authenticating the client devices comprises means for comparing a client identifier and password information received from the client devices with information stored at the network interface unit.

17-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating data packets over a non-secure network between client devices a secure virtual private network (VPN) node, comprising:

- receiving a request from a first client device associated with a first local area network (LAN) to access the secure VPN node;

- presenting an authentication menu via a graphical user interface on the first client device;

- in response to receiving valid authentication information from the first client device, authenticating the first client device for access to the secure VPN node;

- when a second client device associated with the first LAN is incompatible with the authentication menu, authenticating the second client device associated with the first LAN in response to the authentication of the first client device associated with the first LAN, the first client device being compatible with the authentication menu;

- receiving a menu selection from the first client device corresponding to a connection profile associated with a first type of connection;

- accessing the non-secure network using information associated with the selection; and

establishing a secure communication over the non-secure network between the first LAN and the secure VPN node.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as defined in claim 21, wherein the first client device is designated for authentication on behalf of an incompatible client device, the first client device and the incompatible client device being associated with the same LAN.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A tangible machine-readable medium~~ non-transitory memory storing instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to:

receive a request from a first client device associated with a first local area network (LAN) to access a secure VPN node;

present an authentication menu via a graphical user interface to the first client device;
in response to receiving valid authentication information from the first client device,
authenticate the first client device for access to the secure VPN node;

when a second client device associated with the first LAN is incompatible with the menu,
authenticate the second client device of the first LAN in response to the authentication of the first client device of the first LAN;

receive a menu selection from the first client device corresponding to a connection profile associated with a first type of connection;

access a non-secure network using information associated with the selection; and
establish a secure connection over the non-secure network between the first LAN and the secure VPN.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A tangible machine-readable medium~~ The non-transitory memory as defined in claim 23, wherein the first client device is designated for authentication on behalf of an incompatible client device associated with the first LAN.

5. Claims 1-4, 6-16 and 21-24 are allowed.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenny Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3968.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thu Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-6967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452
April 27, 2010